

To: "Obegi, Doug" [dobegi@nrdc.org]
From: "Obegi, Doug"
Sent: Wed 7/21/2010 8:36:49 PM
Subject: SWRCB draft flow criteria for the Bay Delta released
[draft_report072010.pdf](#)
http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/dobegi/swrcbs_flow_recommendations_si.html

In case folks haven't already sent it to you, attached is the State Water Resources Control Board's report recommending flows and water quality criteria necessary to protect fish (instream Public Trust resources) in the Delta. This report was required by last year's State water policy reform legislation, and was explicitly designed to inform the BDCP and Delta Plan processes, and other future processes in the Delta.

The recommended flows are significantly more protective than what's in the current biological opinions, and should help put to rest the argument that those protections are not based on the best available science (I'd note that DWR and the state and federal water contractors were the only parties who argued that D-1641 was adequate, and neither the BiOps nor any additional protections were necessary. The Board's report seems to reject that argument entirely). On the other hand, the report has a lot of caveats in the executive summary, about how feasible the flows are, and how flow requirements might change with changes to the Delta (habitat restoration, pollution, etc.).

Feel free to give me a call if you want to talk more about this. I'm just starting to read through the report (191 pages...). Overall, we'll be encouraging the Board to adopt these flow recommendations on August 3, and then we can focus on the next steps of using the report to inform BDCP. NRDC's public statement on the release of this report is online at:
http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/dobegi/swrcbs_flow_recommendations_si.html

Best,

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